



## Bovine Tuberculosis in California

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) removed California from its list of tuberculosis (TB) accredited-free states on April 25, 2003. California is now classified as **TB Modified Accredited Advanced**. California can reapply for accreditation-free status in April 2005, provided no additional infected herds are detected.

Since May 2002, California confirmed bovine TB in three dairy herds; two in Tulare County and one in Kings County. All three herds were quarantined, the cattle destroyed and the affected premises cleaned and disinfected. Cattle sold from or associated with each herd are being traced and tested. The testing of the first herd is 99% complete, the second is 80% complete and the third has been finished.



## Update

As of July 31, 2003, 418,494 cattle in 297 herds have been tested for bovine TB since this investigation began, and about 13,000 cattle have been depopulated.

Cumulative Since May 13, 2002	
Number of herds tested	297
Number of animals tested	418,494
Number of herds quarantined	3
Number of cattle destroyed	~13,000
Average number of field personnel	30

## California's Eradication Plan

CDFA, USDA and the cattle industry are working together to control and eradicate bovine TB from California:

- Test all dairies in Fresno, Kings and Tulare Counties (approximately 773,000 milking cows in 700 herds)
- Enhance slaughter surveillance, the primary method for detecting new cases of bovine TB, throughout California
- Enhance live animal testing procedures through training and education
- Utilize newly approved Gamma Interferon blood tests as a confirmatory TB test soon
- Restrict Mexican feeder cattle to "designated" pastures/feedlots (proposed for 2004 import season)
- Comply with USDA requirements for "Regionalization" if another infected herd is found
- Regain "Free" status by 2005
- Meet with state and national program leaders to enhance the national TB eradication plan

## Impact on Livestock Producers

All breeding cattle and bison leaving California require official identification and a negative official TB test within 60 days of being moved. It is not a requirement if they are moved:

- To slaughter at an approved slaughter plant or
- From an accredited herd with a certificate that says the herd completed all testing necessary for accredited status with negative test results, one year before the date of movement

The new TB requirements do not apply to sexually intact heifers moving to feedlots or steers and spayed heifers until March 2004. However, some states have more restrictive policies for moving cattle - always check with the state of destination for their requirements.

Agreements developed with neighboring states ease the TB testing requirements on breeding beef cattle moving interstate annually for grazing on approved Pasture-to-Pasture permits. Breeding beef cattle, 24 months of age and older, require a TB test within 12 months of application for the permit and subsequently every 3 years to continue to move annually until California's TB status changes.

California has now imposed stricter TB-testing requirements on cattle entering the state. As of August 15, 2003 California requires a TB test on all breeding dairy cattle entering the state.

A TB test is recommended for exhibition dairy cattle originating from Tulare, Kings and Fresno Counties. Contact your fair board for specific requirements.

CDFA Animal Health Branch Offices	
Sacramento (HQ)	916-654-1447
Modesto	209-491-9350
Ontario	909-947-4462
Redding	530-225-2140
Tulare	559-685-3500
Tulare TB Task Force	559-687-1158
CDFA Milk and Dairy Foods Control Branch Offices	
Stockton	209-466-7186
Oakland	510-622-4810
Fresno	559-445-5506
Ontario	909-923-9929
USDA/APHIS/VS	
916-857-6170 or 877-741-3690	